

THE SMOKY MOUNTAIN PHILATELIST

JOURNAL OF THE ASHEVILLE STAMP CLUB



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CONTENTS

President's Letter	2
Editor's Column	3
2019 Auction Extravanza	3
The Day Lady Luck Saved Pan-Am	4
Bernardo O'Higgins	6
Enjoying Two Hobbies Together	8
Dedication of a Nudist Airport1	0
The Variety Hunter1	. 1
Robert's Ramblings1	2
Shows and Events	3
Auction Consignment Form1	4

THE ASHEVILLE STAMP CLUB

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ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Robert Taylor 828-447-4699

Vice President: Jim Haxby

Treasurer: Stan Kumor

Secretary: Jay Rogers

APPOINTED POSITIONS

50-50 Fundraiser: Lucille Lamy

Auctioneer: Jay Rogers

Membership: Larry Oliver

Journal Editor: Randall Chet
Email: randallchet@gmail.com

WHO TO CALL

If you cannot make a meeting, club event, presentation, or have a question or a suggestion, please contact:

Robert Taylor 828-447-4699

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Asheville Stamp Club meets at Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community, 1617 Hendersonville Rd, Asheville, NC in the Blue Ridge Room of the Community Center at 1:30 pm on the third Sunday of each month. Bring stamps and covers to sell, trade, or show. There are Nickel Boxes and Envelopes of stamps with new material being added all of the time. The Club's 2017 Scott catalogs will be at the meeting; 2019 World Classics, US Specialized. As always, there will be the 50-50 Drawing and Door Prizes.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Wow! Still hot in western NC. Hopefully our fall weather will be right around the corner? I think all of us are ready for it.

September will bring our standard auction. Remember, anyone who is a paid current member can bring in philatelic material to auction and likewise, is qualified to bid on any of the items on the tables.

In addition, Scott English, the Executive Director of the American Philatelic Society (APS), is scheduled to attend the September meeting and present a nationwide award to our own Don Denman.

Good news! Our membership has now eclipsed 80, which is certainly a well respected achievement. It is rewarding to see such a diverse group of new members— from very new to the hobby to the experienced collector.

Many thanks to all of you who continue to help our club enjoy success.

Best regards, Robert

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SMOKE SIGNALS

apologize for the late date publication of this issue of the Smoky Mountain Philatelist. Much time has been spent planning our First Annual ASC Auction Extravaganza, details of which are below! The club started kicking around this idea several meetings back, and why not? Most members, and certainly our dealer members, have any number of stamps and covers fitting the rules below. So dust off the stock book and prepare to convert your duplicates into \$\$\$!

The First Annual ASC Auction Extravaganza!

When? Auction date: November 17, 2019

Who can consign? Any current ASC member in good standing, including dealer-members.

What can be consigned? Any Scott-listed single stamp, set or cover. Must have a minimum 2018-2019 Scott catalog value of \$50, and be substantially fault-free. (very minor faults like perf thins, short perfs, disturbed gum, accepted *with notation,* and in consideration of starting bid.) Starting bids will be a maximum of 10% of Scott catalog value.

How many? 1 to 20 lots per member; there will be a maximum of 200 lots in this auction overall...first come first serve so get your lots in ASAP. Deadline for lot submission October 25. Three ways to submit: 1. Bring your lot submissions to the September 15th or October 20th meetings. For single stamps and sets please use an appropriately-sized display card; glassines are discouraged; 2. Mail your submissions to Randall Chet, Auction Coordinator, by October 25th, (email me at randallchet@gmail.com to make arrangements); 3. Submit a good quality scan (no cell phone pictures!) to randallchet@gmail.com by October 25. See scanning specs below. For your consignments, please fill out a Consignment Form. See pages 14-15 of this issue. Prior to sale of any items, the ASC will provide the consignor with a report of all items being offered for sale showing the description and the starting price for each item. No item will be offered for sale until the consignor has given permission to sell that item. The consignor grants permission when they stipulate to the ASC Auction Coordinator that they agree with the descriptions and prices listed on the Consignors Confirmation report. Descriptions and photos of all lots will be in the November-December issue of the Smoky Mountain Philatelist.

How will the auction work? This will be a live auction November 17 at our Deerfield meeting space. Inspection of lots will be from 1:00pm to 2pm. Auction will start at 2:30 pm. You will receive a bidder number in order to bid. At the end of the auction each member's winning bids will be totalled. Payment must be made at the conclusion of the auction by cash or check. If you can not attend the auction, you may bid by email or snail-mail. Email the auction coordinator randallchet@gmail.com with your maximum bids by lot#. For those preferring to bid by snail-mail, a bid sheet will be included in the Nov-Dec issue of the SMP. Cut off date for email and snail-mail bids will be at 7pm Friday Novemember 15th - NO EXCEPTIONS! Once a lot has an email or snail-mail bid(s), the highest bid becomes the opening bid at the live auction on Sunday November 17. You MAY send in an email or snail mail bid and ALSO ATTEND AND BID at the live auction. If you can not attend the live auction, and you are a successful bidder, you will be sent your stamps and the total amount owed + 10% to cover USPS Priority postage and insurance. Remittance will be due 30 days from date of invoice.

Bid Increments:

Bids	Increase
up to \$50.00	\$2.00
\$50.00 to \$100.00	\$5.00
\$100.00 to \$300.00	\$10.00

Because of all the work involved in putting this issue together, there is not a Revenue Corner column in this issue. I want to thank everyone who has contributed articles this time though. Thanks so much! - Ed.

Scanning specs:

Please scan at 600 pixels per inch (PPI) @ 100% size. As an example this #299 is about an inch wide, therefore, the scan of this stamp (not including the black background) is approximately 600 pixels wide. Scanning at 600

ppi results in the best quality images for our catalog. Scan your stamps on a clean black plastic background, and save them as RGB jpegs on high or very high quality setting (low, or very little compression). Please title them by Scott number.



Email your articles, letters, classified ads, auction items, and comments for the Smoky Mountain Philatelist to Randall Chet: randallchet@gmail.com Deadline for the November-December issue: October 25th

THE DAY LADY LUCK SAVED PAN AM

West, flight to Havana, Cuba. Public domain, Florida State Library & Archives

Jim Haxby

In the annals of corporate America some companies can point to a single day in which their fate rested on a razor's edge and they were saved from certain oblivion only by a stroke of sheer luck. Pan American Airways was one such company—their pivotal day was October 19, 1927.





Cover from Pan Am's inaugural northbound mail trip, Havana-Key West, October 28, 1927

Basil Rowe, owner of West Indian Aerial Express, standing in front of La Nina, the Fairchild FC-2 used to initiate Pan Am's air mail service from Key West to Havana

General Macado, the Pan Am Fokker tri-motor used for the first northbound flight in Pan Am's air mail service Havana-Key

The terms of the government contract stipulated that service had to begin by October 19, 1927, with failure to do so resulting in contract forfeiture and loss of a \$25,000 performance bond. With startup expenses putting the company well into the red it was critical that Pan Am exercise the contract and establish a reliable income stream. Otherwise, it probably wouldn't survive its first year.

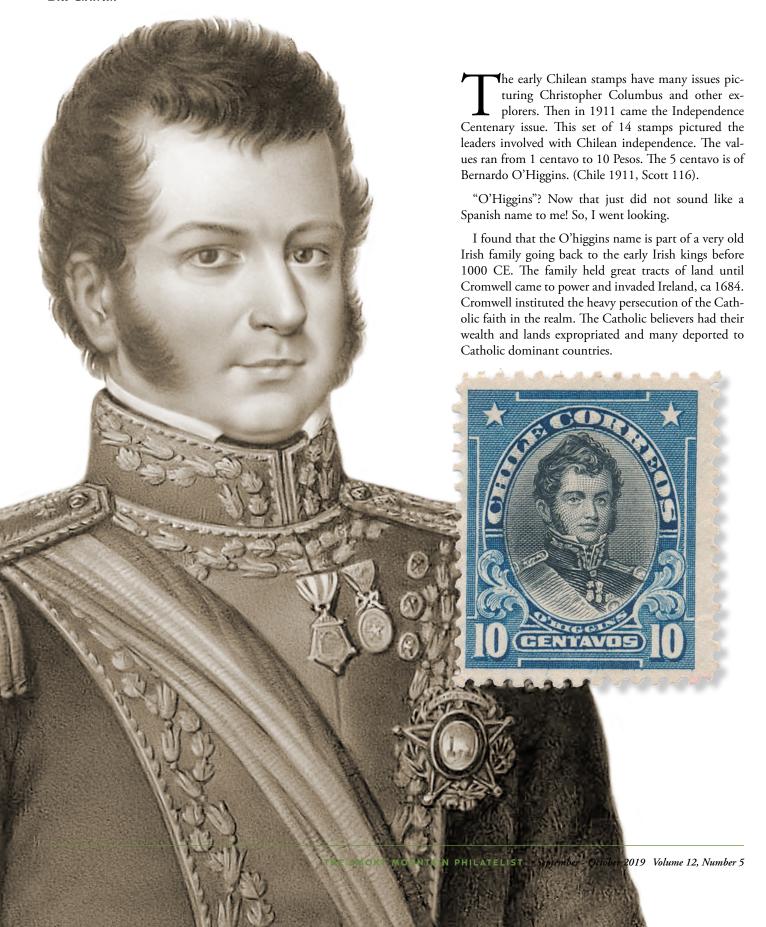
At the time the contract was awarded Pan Am had no airplanes. Two tri-motor planes were on order from the aircraft manufacturer, Anthony Fokker. Fokker managed to deliver one of the planes to Miami just before the deadline. Meanwhile, crews were working hard to remove rocks and fill holes in two dirt runways in a rented abandoned military airfield in Key West that Pan Am was to use as its airfield. When drenching rainstorms passed through and reduced the airfield to a mud patch before the repairs were finished, it left Pan Am with no way to get its new land-based plane down to Key West in time for the inaugural flight.

Then Lady Luck intervened. A fledgling Central American airline, West Indian Aerial Express (WIAE), had purchased a small float plane (a Fairchild FC-2) which was in Miami on its way to be delivered to company headquarters in the Dominican Republic. Pan Am chartered WIAE's plane to make Pan American's Key West-Havana mail run on their behalf. So, on Oct. 19 the mail bags were loaded aboard the little plane and it took off at 8 AM, making the flight to Havana, where the postmaster rowed a boat out to the plane and received the mail bags. Even though a return flight could not be made until days later, the contract starting start date was officially satisfied.

On October 28 the runways at Key West were finally ready. Pan Am's tri-motor plane flew down to Key West, then to Havana and back, making the first round trip of the contract. Thereafter, Pan Am considered October 28 the official inauguration date for the route. While in Havana on that first round trip, the Fokker tri-motor plane was christened General Machado, after the president of Cuba.

BERNARDO ()'HIGGINS: LEADER OF (HILEAN INDEPENDENCE

Bill Churlik





Bernardo's father Ambrosio O'Higgins, after having lost the family lands, left Ireland for Spain in 1751. Being Catholic he was permitted to immigrate legally to the Spanish colonies. Ambrosio eventually ended up in Argentina, Chile, and Peru, this all being one "country" at the time. He was ambitious, innovative, and successful. He set up a "postal system" for the

colony among other accomplishments. He was the governor of Chile then finally promoted to Viceroy of Peru in 1796. (Spain 1969, Scott 1587)

In 1777 Ambrosio fathered a child out of wedlock. This son was name Bernardo. Ambrosio supported his son but only rarely saw him. Bernardo started his education in Chile and then in England. It is here that he was exposed to "revolutionary" thinking from the American Revolution and French Revolutions. Eventually Bernardo went to Spain where he met and became a friend of Jose de San Martin, the future liberator of Argentina.

1801 saw the death of his father Ambrose. Bernardo inherited his father's estates and assumed his surname. Returning to Chile in 1802, Bernardo took up the life of a gentleman farmer and soon became involved in the political scene of the times. During this period Napoleon invaded Spain and installed his brother Joseph as ruler of Spain. The colonies saw this as a chance to gain self-government. When the Spanish regained the throne, the colonies preferred to keep their independence. Of course, this led to the insurrections in the colonies.

Seeing this coming Bernardo used his own money to raise 2 cavalry companies. The companies and he were then trained by another Irishman, Juan MacKenna. In 1818 the fighting was finally over and Chile was free of Spain. Bernardo then was appointed Director Supremo" of Chile. (Chile 1945, Scott 240)

He set about instituting social and economic reforms, building the first Chilean Navy, establishing colleges, libraries and other national improvements. Eventually the established oligarchy and the Church became very upset at their loss of power and wealth.



Bernardo was forced to abdicate leadership and leave Chile in 1823. (Chile 1945, Scott, 242) He settled in Lima, Peru with his sister and his son. There he continued to support the independence movements in other South American countries. He had been given permission to return to Chile but by then was too ill to travel. He died in Lima in 1842 at the age of 64. In 1866 his remains were returned to Chile then in 1979, moved to the Altar de la Patria with much pomp and ceremony.

I just love to meet and come to know such interesting people! Stamps are good for the brain!



ENJOYING TWO HOBBIES TOGETHER

Tom Krill

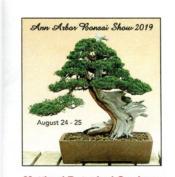
In his column Editor's Notes in the current issue of American Philatelist Thomas Loeibig rebuts a letter to the editor which declares that our hobby is dying. He puts forward the proposition that it is not dying but evolving and mentions some of the actions being taken to spur more interest in the hobby. He also puts forward a series of questions for new contacts and people he meets.

- "Did anyone in your family collect stamps? If so, have you looked at it lately?"
- "Do you like art or history? Stamps are beautiful and they tell great stories."
- "Are you engaged in any other hobby? Perhaps there is a way to connect stamps to it"

That third line is the point of this article. What began as a simple article about bonsai on postage stamps of the world for the Henry Clay Philatelic Society monthly newsletter turned into a topical collection which was exhibited at the 2019 spring stamp show in Lexington, Kentucky and in August at the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

In that article, I suggested that the topic would make a nice topical collection. That was in September 2018 and as an amateur bonsai enthusiast the temptation was just too much. The project was made easy when I discovered that all of the bonsai stamps worldwide were already documented on the website magiminiland. org which is a website devoted to the history of bonsai and related arts. The portion of that website related to stamps was compiled by Emanuel Lukes of the Czech Republic, a bonsai enthusiast for more than 50 years. His stamp exhibit totals a full five frames or 80 pages and has been shown in Japan. It is the only other bonsai topical collection that I am aware of. Assembling the collection of stamps and covers was not difficult utilizing eBay here in the US and the European website of Delkamp. My current exhibit is just 2 frames which was first shown at the spring stamp show of the Henry Clay Philatelic Society in 2019. I invited a few of the local bonsai experts in to see it and it was suggested that this would be a nice adjunct to bonsai shows.

The first effort was at the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society show held in Ann Arbor, Michigan in August 2019. The Ann Arbor Stamp club was not in a position to support the project so I mounted 24 pages of the exhibit into three 24" x 36" poster frames which were mounted on easels. The positive feedback received from society members and attendees was more than I had expected. To make the presentation more complete, I had printed cachet envelopes which the Ann Arbor post Office cancelled for me one day in advance of the show.



Matthaei Botanical Gardens Ann Arbor, MI





Traverse City MI February 3, 2012

As I assembled the collection I found that I would not be the first to do a cachet cover for a bonsai show. In February 2012 there was a cachet envelope done for the Beauty of Bonsai Show held in that city.

Every year the National bonsai show is held in Rochester, New York. There was a special cachet cover for the June 2012 exhibition.

Both of those covers were purchased from a dealer in Spain. The USA bonsai issue of 5 stamps came out on January 23, 2012 so it seems strange that both of these covers were done with the liberty bell stamps. Probably they do exist with the bonsai stamps in both instances so I will keep looking. I have also found several European and one Indian cachet cover commemorating bonsai exhibitions. Here is one from San Marino done on the occasion of the 20exhibition of the European Bonsai Congress in 2004.





The Ann Arbor Bonsai Society is a very active club and they meet monthly at the Matthaei Botanical Garden. With a membership of around 80 members they sponsor many activities. At the show there were bonsai demonstrations on both days in addition to a hands on workshop for children. Each participant took home a bonsai tree they had fashioned themselves. There were tickets sold for a variety of items on raffle including bonsai tools, trees and even one of my covers. Ad-

ditionally the club brings in guest speakers to its meetings for talks and workshops as part of its annual activities.

Next stop will be the Carolina Bonsai Show in Asheville, NC where the Asheville Stamp Club will participate with me. Hopefully, the post office will be as cooperative as the one in Ann Arbor and will have a hand cancel with the city name on it instead of just the zip code.

DEDICATION OF A NUDIST AIRPORT - THE BARE FACTS

Larry Oliver

There are many types of resorts in the US: those that cater to the primitive experience with no amenities and face the weather as it comes, to the "glamping" exposure, with decks, restrooms, electricity to the campsite, and even restaurants on the property. Not many of those resorts that attract a camping experience have airports for their guests. At least one does, however: Sunny Rest Resort, in Palmerton, PA. And it is unique: it is a resort for nudists.

A word of caution for the prurient-minded of our readers (hopefully, none): this article will expose (the word choice is deliberate) nothing embarrassing to the resort or to entice attendance - philately is our focus.

Sunny Rest Resort was established in 1945, and has expanded several times. Nudity is optional throughout most of the resort, but required in places, like the spa. The resort includes multiple amenities such as a night club, sports bar, hiking trails, tennis courts, etc.

A sophisticated clientele demanded discrete access, so they built an airport. The airport was dedicated September 16, 1950, and a cachet was made for the date. The airport is still in operation as a private airport, code 8PA8.

I will refrain from making the obvious jokes, in keeping with the philatelic theme of this article, suffice it to be said that philately recognizes no dress code...

Figure 1: American Air Mail Catalog #W215, Airport dedication cover dated September 16, 1950, Palmerton PA.



Member Dealers: Are you interested in reaching more collectors? Time to take advantage of your free 2.5" x 2" display ad! You editor and designer can even style it for you. It's just one of the benefits available for Asheville Stamp Club members. And if you are reading this but are not yet a member, our membership application can be found on page 2 of this journal. Contact randallchet@gmail.com for your ad.



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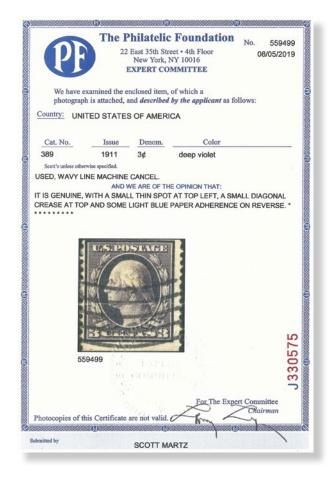
(ASE #389: THE ()RANGEBURG (OIL - SOLVED!

Tell It has been a full 5 months since I sent the possible #389 Orangeburg Coil off to The Philatelic Foundation for examination and certification. During the past 5 months I was on pins and needles waiting...and waiting and waiting. Robert Taylor, who sent it in for me, called the Foundation several times to enquire about its status, and the last two times was told there was a conflict, and we would have to wait.

Conflict? Since they did not elaborate, my mind of course wandered. What could it be? My first thought was that the expert committee was split, unable to come to a consensus. Or was it two good and one altered, or the other way around? Did they have to send it to additional members of the expert committee to decide? I am sure I will never know the real reason.

Needless to say, the wait was excruciating. But finally the call came from Robert; he said he received an envelope from the PF with my stamp—and luckily a BILL. Yes! they determined it genuine. See the attached certificate. It had a little crease and a thin (which I still do not see) but it is a real Orangeburg Coil. After that, I probably grinned for a week. Thank you to the small town country auction house in New York for the BEST LOT EVER. I only wish I sent it in 5 years ago when I first got it. So keep your eyes peeled—you never know what you will find lurking in those junk bins!

Happy Hunting! Scott









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YOU MEET ALL KINDS WHEN YOU (OLLECT!

his year has certainly been unique in the types of clients I encounter. A few months ago, I sent out a flyer to about 30 coin dealers in North and South Carolina seeking their assistance. It is not uncommon for one of their coin clients to ask them about stamps in the client's possession. So, I have asked the dealers to refer any of those clients to me and I would pay them a referral fee if I was to actually have a purchase agreement with their referral. That has been fruitful in referrals but most of the types of stamps they have are just so little value thus far.

Some calls are as follows: "Mr. Taylor, I have these RARE stamps". I ask, "how do you know they are rare stamps?". "Because they are old of course!"

At that point and with almost every new client, I have them send me photos via text. Unfortunately, almost all thus far are just used stamps from the 1950's. Stamps they have never seen because of their age suggests possible high value but as we all know have almost no value. At least I get to educate them.

Here is one of my most "challenging" appraisals to date: I received a client referral regarding stamps and coins. The young man said he lived in Cherokee (ugh...2 & 1/2 hour drive). He lived with his friend who was the one who actually owned all of the stamps and coins.

I arrived at their residence on a hot sunny Tuesday. As I exchanged greetings, they led me up a steel circular stairwell to the game room area. Lined up on the floor was 51 three ring binders.

It was at this time that I noticed something very disconcerting: they both



35,000 used modern U.S. stamps plus several hundred dollars in mint postage. After two hours of trying to locate value other than postage, I arrived at my offer. At this point, I was HOPING they would not take it since that would require carrying 51 albums down the narrow winding stairwell and out to my car. My bad right knee would not be happy. The owner said he would mull over my offer.

Next, out came the metal cabinet full of a mixture of silver and non-silver coins. Flea market specials. My hopes of actually buying something of value increased.

While I was sorting through all the coins under the watchful eye of the owner, his cell phone was constantly ringing. After about seven calls, I realized that it was his wife calling. I asked, "is that your wife calling? He said it was. She was currently in prison at a Georgia facility and that he was leaving later that afternoon to visit her.

Needless to say, I was getting nervous and I never asked why she was in prison. He obviously needed money to make the trip and probably to deal with his own penal situation. Were they going to overpower me and who knows what after that?

I finished the coin appraisal as fast as I could. I arrived at a \$1,400 price. We bartered over a few of the coins with me being careful not to upset him. I wrote him a check, not wanting to reveal the rather large amount of cash I brought with me.

I NEVER mentioned the 51 albums that I was not exactly excited about hauling down that narrow winding stairwell. And thankfully at that point he decided to keep the albums.

Whew! There is a GOD!

I packed up and exited as quickly as I could and left for home. Several days later, my favorite teller at my TD Bank called me. She wanted to know if I had given a \$1,400 check to an individual in Cherokee the last few days. I said yes. The check to him is good. Then I asked why? She said his bank in Cherokee had called to verify if the check was valid for this individual. Me thinks his bank knew he was a bad boy of some type.

Not fun but something I have to deal with at times.

Till the next time, Robert

A NEW UPSTATE SC STAMP (LUB?

Interested parties who might want to attend a stamp club meeting in the Greenville, SC area should contact Chris Lazaroff at (810) 458-3333 or clazfdc@yahoo.com. Mr. Lazaroff has been in touch with some other individuals who are also interested in forming a new club in Greenville. There have been no definite plans as of yet as to when or where the meeting will be held. Chris is a former member of the Greer stamp club. The club disbanded a few years back due to the early and unexpected demise of Sam Whitehead, who was the President of the club. The club used to meet in small venues such as the meeting rooms of local public libraries. Although I joined the Greer stamp club sometime in 2011 or so, I understand that it was a re-forming of an earlier club which used to meet somewhere in Greenville. Both Herb and myself have requested from Chris that the new club try and avoid the first Sunday of the month and the third Sunday of the month, because of possible conflicts with Charlotte and Asheville meetings respectively.

— Ken Farnik

SHOWS & EVENTS

Sept. 21-22, Fairfax, VA Fairfax Stamp Festival Elk's Lodge 8421 Arlington Boulevard (Rte 50) Farfax, VA 22301 Sat: 9:30 - 5, Sun: 10 - 4 Contact: Cary Cochran, 800-560-5310

Oct. 12, Brighton, MI Sterling Kingbrook Auction 2019C Mail/internet/floor auction 455 E Grand River Ave, Ste 103 Brighton, MI 48116 Sat: 1-4pm Contact: Mark Vervaeke, 810-220-6000 cell 248-320-3640 www.sterlingkingbrookauctions.com Nov. 9-10, Charlotte, NC Charlotte Stamp Show St. Sarkis Armenian Church 7000 Park Road (Hwy 77, exit Tyvola Road, go east 2.5 miles, turn right on Park Rd, 1 mile on rt.) Charlotte, North Carolina Sat: 10 - 5, Sun: 10 - 4 Contact: Cary Cochran, 800-560-5310

Nov. 16-17, Raleigh, NC Coin, Paper Money & Stamp Show James E. Holshouser Building NC State Fairgrounds (1025 Blue Ridge Road. Raleigh, NC) Sat: 10 - 5, Sun: 10 - 3 Contact: Dot Hendricks 919-828-9450 Dec. 13-15, Kissimmee, FL FLOREX 2018 The Florida State State Stamp Show Osceola Heritage Park, Events Center Hall B 1901 Chief Osceola Trail Kissimmee, FL 34744 Fri: 10-5, Sat: 10-5, Sun: 10-3 www.florexstampshow.com

Jan. 31-Feb. 2, Norcross, GA Southeastern Stamp Expo Southeastern Federation of Stamp Clubs Atlanta Hilton Northeast 5993 Peachtree industrial Blvd. Fri & Sat: 10-5:30, Sun: 10-3 www.sefsc.org Admission: \$5 www.sefsc.org

STAMPS - WANTED, FOR SALE OR TRADE

Wanted! WWII US patriotic covers - especially with cachets that are "politically incorrect", humorous, or feature women. Top prices paid - which ain't much, frankly! Larry Oliver stamper707@gmail.com

Wanted! US First Issue Revenues. Large accumulations as I am looking for shades, paper types and cancellations. randallchet@gmail.com

Wanted! Philatelic Literature related to US revenues, especially any back issues of the American Revenuer, and Weekly Philatelic Gossip 1936 - 1957. Also any general periodicals 1880 - 1950. randallchet@gmail.com

For Sale! 98 US FDCs in a VPD flip binder and slipcase. Most 1958-60, most unaddressed with cachet. \$25 randallchet@gmail.com

Trade! Hundreds of UN FDCs. Large 8.5 x 11 flag series block covers. Smaller covers. Does anybody collect these? randallchet@gmail.com

For Sale! USPS Commemorative Yearbooks. Mint. Few to no stamps. Years: 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2007. \$5 each. randallchet@gmail.com

If you are a member of the ASC and have something of interest to list, feel free to email your classified ad to randallchet@gmail.com. As space allows, I'll do my best to include it in the next issues of the Smoky Mountain Philatelist.